

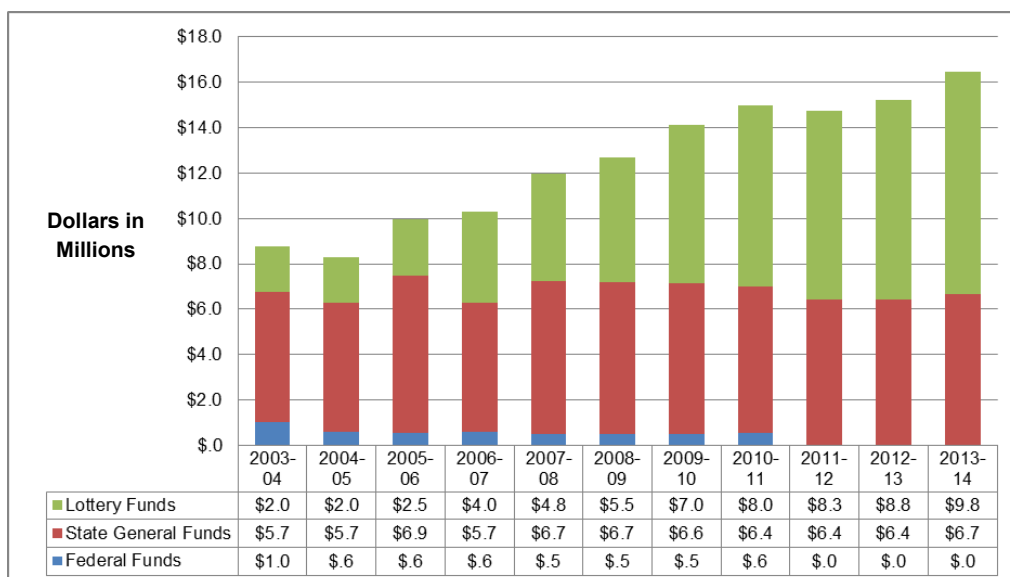
Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG)

September 2015

Overview

The Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG) program provides financial aid to students who are residents of Nebraska, have not earned a bachelor's, graduate or professional degree, have high financial need, and who are attending eligible Nebraska colleges and universities. NOG is the State of Nebraska's only need-based finan-

cial aid program for postsecondary students. Prior to the 2010-11 academic year, the program was called the Nebraska State Grant Program, which began in 2003. The Coordinating Commission administers the program. Although funding for NOG has steadily increased, Nebraska still ranks only 33rd in the country in State-provided need-based financial aid. Funding has not kept pace with student need.



Note: The Legislature in 2015 granted the Commission spending authority for roughly \$10 million in Lottery funds and an appropriation of \$6.9 million in General funds for FY 2016.

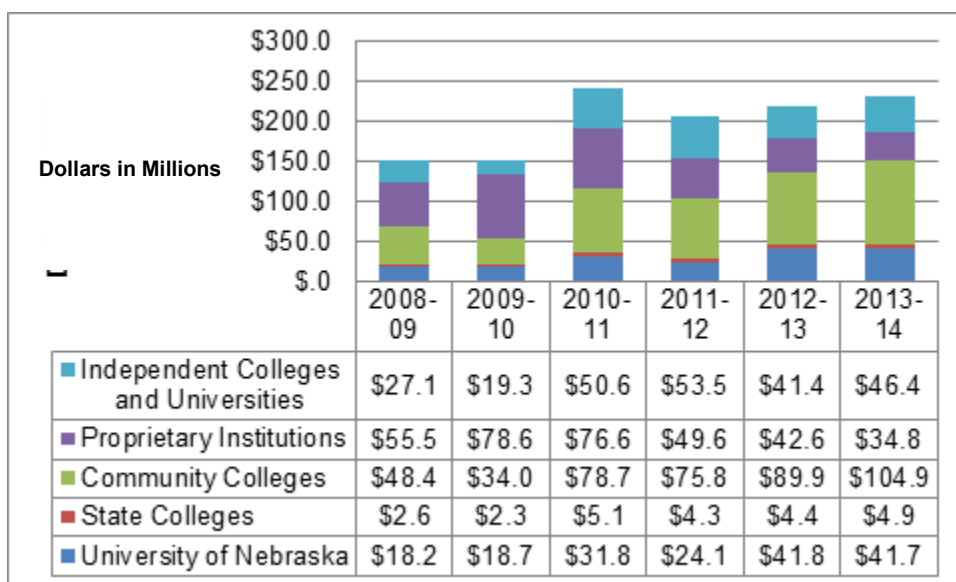
Funding

NOG is funded through a combination of General fund appropriations and lottery funds. As you can see on the chart to the left, General funds have remained stagnant since 2007-08. Federal funds have disappeared. The only increase in NOG funding has come from lottery funds. Meanwhile, student need has continued to increase at a rate that outpaces any increase in funding.

Unmet financial need

Nearly 16,000 students received NOG awards in 2013-14 — **but more than 30,000 students qualified for grants and did not receive them due to a lack of NOG funds.**

The chart to the right illustrates the unmet financial need of Nebraska postsecondary students. A lack of State-sponsored financial aid is a contributing factor to this. A student is more likely to take out costly private loans when confronted with unmet financial need.



NOG — by the numbers (2013-14)

Amount awarded: \$16,419,718

Recipients: 15,944 students

Recipients by sector:

- 39.6% - Community Colleges
- 23.1 % - University of Nebraska
- 20.1% - Independents
- 10.4% - Private career schools
- 6.8% - State Colleges

Average grant: \$1,029.84

NOG recipients by income level:

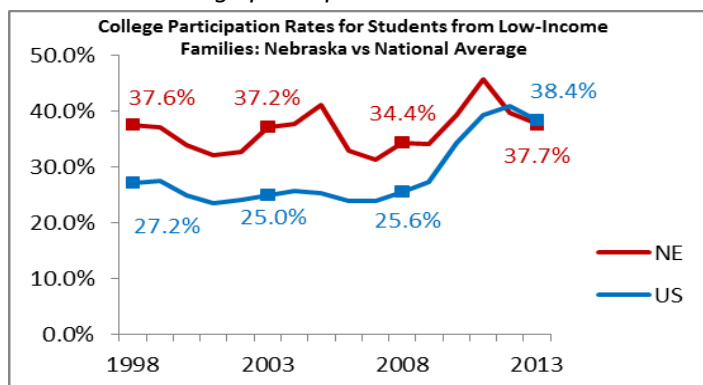
- 45.2% - \$19,999 or less
- 28.0% - \$20,000-\$39,999
- 26.8% - \$40,000+

Future need

Growth in free and reduced lunch

Nebraska students will continue to need financial aid to afford college. One predictor is the percentage of PK-12 students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, currently 45%, which has increased every year since 2006-07 and every year except one since 1999-2000.

Low-income college participation has stalled



2012-13 NOG recipients/unfunded students by Legislative District

SENATOR	DISTRICT	RECIPIENTS	UNFUNDED	SENATOR	DISTRICT	RECIPIENTS	UNFUNDED
Baker	30	346	742	Kolowski	31	176	393
Bloomfield	17	161	410	Kolterman	24	227	500
Bolz	29	363	981	Krist	10	290	509
Brasch	16	172	399	Kuehn	38	191	342
Campbell	25	191	689	Larson	40	183	398
Chambers	11	414	1,239	Lindstrom	18	261	685
Coash	27	402	1,057	McCollister	20	269	625
Cook	13	296	958	McCoy	39	141	356
Craighhead	6	259	589	Mello	5	273	813
Crawford	45	336	792	Morfeld	46	497	1,151
Davis	43	167	347	Murante	49	219	474
Ebke	32	239	587	Nordquist	7	210	623
Friesen	34	212	376	Pansing Brooks	28	491	1,246
Garrett	3	272	635	Riepe	12	301	792
Gloor	35	277	385	Scheer	19	249	687
Groene	42	284	466	Schilz	47	142	279
Haar	21	477	1,135	Schnoor	15	272	531
Hadley	37	212	583	Schumacher	22	295	425
Hansen	26	284	466	Seiler	33	269	436
Harr	8	298	873	Smith	14	300	679
Hilkemann	4	164	405	Stinner	48	264	610
Howard	9	232	648	Sullivan	41	234	506
Hughes	44	188	219	Watermeier	1	284	512
Johnson	23	237	466	Williams	36	284	449
Kintner	2	241	509				

Note: Number of recipients for some districts is likely affected by students from throughout the state providing their college address as their home address.